



PRESS RELEASE

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First 5 San Bernardino provides help to children affected by the firestorm

(San Bernardino, CA) – San Bernardino County Supervisor and First 5 Chairman Bill Postmus announced today the release of \$50,000 from First 5 San Bernardino to the American Red Cross to provide needed resources to the numerous families with children, prenatal to age five, affected by wildfires in San Bernardino County.

“The local fires have caused - and are still causing - destruction and hardship throughout our county. Hundreds of homes and scores of businesses have been destroyed. In many cases, families have lost their home and all their belongings,” said Supervisor Postmus.

Over 60,000 people were forced to leave their homes, many fleeing to evacuation sites around the county. Others journeyed to the homes of friends and relatives.

“Several First 5 San Bernardino agencies are located in areas still threatened by the fires. Additionally, many agencies have staff members that live in the fire area. Our prayers and thoughts are with them and their families, said Don Larkin, executive

director of First 5 San Bernardino. “As the losses from the fire become better known in the next few days, we plan to offer assistance to those impacted.”

First 5 San Bernardino staff members personally donated and delivered two vehicles overflowing with baby formula and bottles, diapers, toys, books, games, clothing and food items to the San Bernardino Red Cross Shelter at the San Bernardino Airport.

The Commission, established through the California Children and Families First Act of 1998, and partnering service agencies have initiated numerous programs to optimize early childhood development. San Bernardino County receives an allocation of approximately \$27 million each year from a statewide, fifty-cent tax on tobacco products. Since the Commission’s inception, thousands of children prenatal to age five and their families have benefited from the quality services provided through the program. For more information, contact First 5 San Bernardino at 909.386.7706 or visit their website at www.first5sanbernardino.org

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